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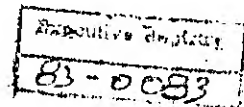
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House of Representatives



H.R. 3963 -- CONTRACT SERVICES FOR DRUG DEPENDENT FEDERAL OFFENDERS

ACT AMENDMENT OF 1981 (Violent Crime and Drug Enforcement Improvements Act of 1982, including Title I, the Comprehensive Drug Penalty Act of 1982; Title II, Justice Assistance Act of 1982; and Title III, the Federal Anti-Tampering Act).

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of H.R. 3963 to amend the Contract Services for Drug Dependent Federal Offenders Act of 1978, and I commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HUGHES), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime; and the ranking member from Michigan (Mr. SAWYER), for their wisdom, and hard work in bringing this legislation to the floor today. While I endorse all the anticrime provisions contained in this legislation, particularly the section dealing with mandatory sentencing and bail reform as it applies to career criminals, as a member of the Select Committee on Narcotics, I particularly support those provisions that bolster our fight against narcotics abuse and trafficking in our Nation.

Title I, which incorporates the substance of H.R. 7140, the Comprehensive Drug Penalty Act of 1982, which passed the House in September 1982, contains strong elements to assist law enforcement officials in bringing to justice those involved in drug trafficking and drug related crimes by allowing for the civil forfeiture of lands and buildings used or intended for use in holding or storing dangerous drugs. More importantly, the bill provides the mechanism and funding for the effective use of this forfeiture provision. It also broadens the utilization of forfeiture in cracking down on international drug trafficking by extending the current forfeiture provisions to the Customs Service. For the first time, criminal forfeiture is made possible for all felony drug cases. Another strong deterrent to drug related crime is the bill's provision for increased criminal fines and an alternative fine under which drug offenders can be forced to pay up to twice their gross profits or proceeds.

I strongly support the language contained in the bill, which calls for the appointment of a director of national and international drug operations and policy. Although currently there is a Director of the White House Drug Abuse Office, what we need, and what this legislation would accomplish, is the appointment of a highly visible director who could coordinate all aspects of our Federal efforts to control drug abuse in four major areas—law enforcement, treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention. At the present time, the Director of the White House Drug Abuse Office devotes his work to the drug treatment area, while the Associate Attorney General is focusing his efforts on developing the 12 regional drug task force programs proposed by the President on October 14, 1982.

If we truly mean what we say—that we are going to wage an all out war against drug abuse—then this issue must be elevated to the top level of Presidential priorities. Therefore, we need to create an office with the stature and accessibility to the President required to provide the personnel, resources, and expertise to help formulate, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive and highly visible Federal strategy. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this language and this legislation.



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*I thought this material would be of
interest to you.*

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Benjamin A. Gilman".